



Pertussis in Coconino County

Arizona has declared a statewide pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak. Coconino County has had six cases so far in 2005, two of them in June. The Arizona Department of Health Services recommends an accelerated DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis) vaccination schedule for infants at 6 weeks, 10 weeks and 14 weeks (instead of 2, 4, and 6 months). The last two DTaP doses are given at 12-18 months, and 4-6 years. A new vaccine, Tdap (Tetanus diphtheria and acellular pertussis) just was approved by the FDA. Coconino County Health Department has received 260 doses of Tdap. It will be offered initially to children 10-18 years old who live in homes with infants less than one year old, and who received their last DTaP dose at least five years ago. The Coconino County Health Department offers vaccination clinics in Flagstaff on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more information, or to make an appointment, call CCHD at (928) 522-7920.



Hepatitis C Virus



Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a blood-borne virus that grows very well in the liver, causing inflammation and cell death. The acute phase of HCV infection usually lasts about 2-12 weeks, after which the virus is removed from the system in about 20% of infected individuals. While the majority of people infected with the virus do not have symptoms, those that do may experience fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dark urine, and jaundice (yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes). About 80% of infected individuals do not clear the virus and become chronically infected. 10-25% of those with chronic infections progress to chronic liver disease, which can lead to liver damage; fibrous tissue, fat deposits, and/or scarring in the liver; and liver cancer. HCV is the leading reason for liver transplants.

HCV is transmitted when blood or body fluids from an infected individual enter the body of another person. The most common way this happens is when people share needles or other drug equipment (cookers, tourniquets, straws, pipes, etc.) when using drugs. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid or quit using injection and noninjection drugs. Needles and other drug equipment should not be shared. Before 1992, many infections occurred through blood transfusion or treatment with blood products. Since then, all blood and blood products are tested for HCV. Other less common ways the virus can be transmitted include sexual intercourse, needle-stick injuries in healthcare workers, tattoos, body piercing, and sharing household items that may contain blood (razors, toothbrushes, etc.).

In the U.S, an estimated four million people are infected with HCV. About 8,000-10,000 HCV-related deaths occur annually. Physicians can play a crucial role in preventing infection and illness related to HCV. Patients should be counseled to avoid or to quit using intravenous drugs (or not to share needles). Those who are at risk for infection should be tested for HCV. To reduce the risk of severe liver disease, physicians should promote hepatitis A and B vaccination and the avoidance of alcohol among their HCV-infected patients. CCHD has a program for a free hepatitis A and B combination vaccine for anyone who is infected with the hepatitis C virus. Either the health care provider or the patient can call 928-522-7920 for information on obtaining this vaccine.

About 4-18 reported cases of hepatitis C virus infection have been diagnosed per month in Coconino County since January of 2004. Many of these cases are not considered confirmed because the confirmatory tests are not reported often. Any positive test for HCV, **including confirmatory tests**, should be reported by healthcare providers by calling Coconino County Health Department (CCHD) at 928-522-7920.



Communicable Disease Summary Report*

Diagnosis	2004					2005				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jan-Apr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jan-Apr
campylobacteriosis	3	2	1	2	8	3	2	2	1	8
chlamydia	18	27	37	37	119	15	27	21	21	84
coccidioidomycosis	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
gonorrhea	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	5	0	5
hepatitis A	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
hepatitis B and D	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	0	2	6
hepatitis C	11	18	13	18	60	7	10	11	5	33
meningococcal invasive disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus**	2	3	7	5	17	5	3	3	0	11
pertussis	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	4
salmonellosis	1	3	1	2	7	0	0	2	1	3
streptococcal group A: invasive	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	0	2	7
pneumococcal invasive disease	0	4	2	1	7	2	0	1	2	5
varicella	2	6	12	6	26	3	6	5	2	16
Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus**	0	2	2	2	6	3	6	4	1	14

*Numbers indicate the number of cases diagnosed during the given year and/or month in residents of Coconino County. Data do not include cases still under investigation. Data are provisional and subject to change.

**Bacterial illnesses that do not respond to certain antibiotics.

